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SUBJECT: BRV RELEASES TIP LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR DANIEL LAWTON
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (SBU) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (BRV) provided
USG officials on April 8 with an eleventh-hour summary of its
trafficking in persons (TIP) law enforcement efforts in 2007,
including the number of victims assisted and prosecution
figures. The release follows repeated USG requests for
statistical information for inclusion in the Department's TIP
Report. This is the first time in recent memory that BRV
officials have shared a written record of their anti-TIP
efforts with USG officials.

Anti-TIP Training Efforts

¶2. (SBU) The BRV asserts that it trained more than 10,000
persons on TIP-related issues in 2007. Specifically, the BRV
reports that it trained 1,711 officers from the Criminal
Investigations Unit (CICPC), 338 civil servants, 458
teachers, 5,339 parents and legal guardians, and 2,409
community leaders.

Trafficking Victims in 2007

¶3. (SBU) The BRV assisted 22 victims of trafficking,
according to the data provided. Two victims were Bolivian
nationals, nine were Peruvian, five were Colombian, and three
were Venezuelan. The nationality of three additional victims
is listed as unconfirmed.

Trafficking Charges in 2007

¶4. (SBU) The BRV reports charging 13 traffickers in 2007.
Two were of Bolivian origin, five were Peruvian nationals,
and three were Venezuelans. The nationality of three other
traffickers is listed as unconfirmed.

Victim Assistance

¶5. (SBU) The BRV also reported two cases of repatriation
involving Venezuelan women living abroad under conditions of
forced labor and sexual exploitation. The victims lived in
Switzerland and Mexico and were assisted by the International
Organization on Migration (IOM). The BRV reportedly provided
the victims with a public attorney and psychological

treatment upon repatriation. Separately, 21 Chinese nationals, purportedly trafficking victims, were repatriated in 2007. According to the BRV, the victims were given shelter, food, and medical attention. The case is reportedly under investigation.

¶6. (C) Comment. The BRV's release of its anti-TIP efforts is significant given that USG officials have repeatedly asked the government to share data. Moreover, the number of persons trained, victims assisted, and prosecutions against traffickers appear to show some credible progress in this area. End Comment.

DUDDY